appended to the Rules regarding the constitution and conduct of business of the Assembly. The Member proposed the following modifications to those provisions with a view not merely to secure representation for the said minorities but to widen the popular franchise :—

Proviso I (a).—The ideal of Government ought to be to grant the right to vote to every adult male in the State. With that ideal in view, the Government should gradually extend the franchise instead of limiting it to those who paid an annual land revenue of Rs. 50. The limit should therefore be reduced to Rs. 10 for the present. The Assembly would thereby become more popular than it was at the present day; and the country was really ripe for such an extension of the franchise.

Proviso I (b).—The member doubted if any voter or member has been yet selected on that basis. The people of the State were generally conservative and they would not give out the exact extent of their income. The limitation of the net income to Rs. 2000 was very high and should be reduced to Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. Such a reduction of the minimum would not derogate from the dignity of the voter or the representative selected.

Proviso I (c).—According to that proviso, a Graduate of less than 10 years' standing was debarred from voting or being elected as a member, while a ryot who was young and uneducated was eligible to vote and to be elected as member provided he paid a land revenue of Rs. 50. The distinction was invidious and disastrous. The rule should be so modified as to include all Graduates and other men who had had a decent secondary education. Such a modification was necessary at least so far as the educationally backward communities were concerned.

The Member next proceeded to consider the difficulties experienced by the Ezhavas in electing representatives to the Assembly and to suggest remedial measures for the same. Under the present rules, the Ezhavas would not be able to secure sufficient number of votes and there was hardly an elected representative of the community in any session of the Assembly. The nominated members of the community could not always be regarded as fit to represent the community in general. To remedy the evil, he suggested the creation of separate electorates for the Ezhavas. He contended that the apprehension that separate electorates for minorities would widen the already existing gulf between the different classes was absolutely groundless. He also urged the creation of separate electorates for the several communities in the State. In regard to the special electorate for the Ezhavas, the member suggested the following scheme for the consideration of the Government :—

Out of the 100 members, 16 ought to be Ezhavas according to the proportion of the number of Ezhavas to the entire population of the State. The number 16 might, if necessary, be reduced a bit. The Ezhavas qualified to vote should vote division-war and should elect three or at the least two representatives for each Division. The S. N. D. P. Yogam should also elect one member.

In conclusion, he requested that his proposals might be considered in a sympathetic spirit.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

150. The desirability of allotting two members to the Devicolam taluk.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetty (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the Devicolam taluk was hilly and extensive and that communication between the different parts of the taluk was extremely difficult. The taluk had three distinct parts, *viz.*, the Anjinad tract, the Kannan Devan Hills Concession and the Cardamom Hills. Those three parts differed considerably in very material circumstances. Already the Kannan Devan Planters had a representative in the Assembly, while the other two tracts together had only one member. The Anjinad ryot knew little of the condition of the Cardamom Hills and the ryots of the latter place knew little of the *nancha* and *puncha* cultivation of the former place. Hence a representative from Anjinad or the Cardamom Hills could not adequately discharge his representative function in the Assembly on behalf of the entire taluk. The Member therefore requested that the taluk should be given the privilege to return two representatives to the Assembly—one from Anjinad and the other from the Cardamom Hills.

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In that connection, the Member referred to the following grievances of the Anjinad ryots :—

(1) The annual repairs to the Talliar Dam and Channel were not regularly carried out by the P. W. D., and as a consequence the cultivation of the lands commanded by the Talliar Scheme became well-nigh impossible. The ryots had to pay a water-cess of Rs. 4 per acre and a kist of Rs. 2 per acre. The failure of crops since 1085 consequent on the neglected condition of the said channel had caused serious hardships to the ryots. The Member therefore requested the immediate repair of the dam, channel and the sluices therein.

(2) The P. W. D. were indifferent to the needs of the ryots in the matter of water supply. He therefore suggested that the Land Revenue Department should be entrusted with the responsibility of regulating the water supply or if that was not feasible, that a committee consisting of a few P. W. D. officers and ryots be appointed to look after the irrigational facilities of Anjinad.

(3) A bridge over the Talliar channel near Natchivayal was sadly needed and should be ordered to be constructed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Suggestions for the modification of the rules relating to the constitution and conduct of business in the Assembly.

Mr. Joseph Thalliath, M. A., Bar-at-Law (Member, Parur taluk) said that according to the rules in force, only those who paid an annual land revenue of Rs. 50 were allowed the privilege of voting in the election of taluk members. In his opinion, the standard fixed was very high. In Travancore those who paid Rs. 50 might be considered fairly rich, and generally, rich people were not those who took an interest in public affairs. It was the middle class people of Travancore that would be able to represent to the Government the point of view of the general public on important questions. Unless therefore the minimum of Rs. 50 was lowered, the middle class people who really formed the back-bone of every community, would have very little to do with the Popular Assembly election and proceedings. That was a contingency not calculated to the best interests of the people and the State. The free admission of the middle class could alone entitle the Assembly to the proud appellation of "Popular Assembly". The Member therefore suggested that the franchise should be extended at least to those who paid an annual revenue of Rs. 25. The extension of the franchise would bring a greater number of men in touch with public affairs of the State and would be of great educative value to the general public. Further, such an extension alone could secure an adequate representation of the landed interest in the State, since the existing number of taluk members, and representatives of Jenmies and Planters, hardly represented one-sixth of the entire landed interest of the country.

The Member next referred to the perfunctory way in which the voters' lists were prepared by the Proverthicars. To avoid complaints, he suggested that the Proverthicars should be asked to publish in the village office the list of voters in each *pakuthi* at the beginning of Chingom every year and the people given some time to send complaints to the Peishcar regarding the list. After the disposal of such complaints, a revised list of voters for the whole State should be published in the Gazette. Such a list would give a good deal of information as to the wealth of the people in different taluks, the strength of the different communities in each taluk, etc.

In conclusion, the Member referred to the travelling allowances granted to the Members of the Assembly by the Government and said that those allowances were quite meagre. He requested that they should be given allowances either decently or none at all.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

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